



# DAVIDSON VERSUS GOLIATH

» No. 2 Georgetown advances, will play No. 10 Wildcats after upset  
» ALSO: American fights, falls to Tennessee, 72-57 » PAGE 30



**U.S.A.**



## Bill Richardson endorses Obama

Despite Clinton ties, New Mexico governor backs Ill. senator. » Page 9



## Midwest rivers keep rising; heavy snow hits Chicago

Residents in Missouri, Arkansas and Ohio fight to save their homes; snowstorm cancels 400 flights at O'Hare International Airport. » Page 9

**TOP STORY » CITY WELFARE**

# Child-abuse backlog nears 1,000 in D.C.

Children vulnerable as deadlines lapse; city could lose legal control » SEE PAGE 4



**BUSINESS**

## Middle-age, moving home

The slumping economy is causing some older adults to move back in with their parents. » Page 12

**Rain-wary**  
48°  
33° Mostly cloudy, scattered showers » Page 8

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## HEART OF THE COMMUNITY

In observance of the mass killings of Jews during World War II, American University is sponsoring several events for Holocaust Remembrance Day next weekend. The AU Chorus will perform twice, once March 29 at 8 p.m. and once March 30 at 3 p.m., at Katzen Arts Center. **Yom Hashoah: Let Us Remember**, features psalm settings from the 17th century violinist Salamone Rossi and D.C. composer Donald McCullough's "Holocaust Cantata: Songs of the Camps" and "We Remember Them." Tickets costs \$15 for the general public, \$10 for university community members and \$5 for students. Call 202-885-2787 or visit [american.tix.com](http://american.tix.com).

## POLICE BLOTTER

### Swede caught in sex sting

A man who flew to Arlington from Sweden to meet a teenage girl for sex was arrested Friday, Arlington County police said.

Jesper Lundberg, 41, of Jarfalla, Sweden, met an undercover Arlington detective in an Internet chat room and arranged to pay the detective to have sex with the detective's fictitious 14-year-old daughter, police said.

Lundberg made the 16-hour flight from Sweden to Arlington this week. The detective, who is assigned to the Northern Virginia Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, worked with federal agents to arrest Lundberg at his hotel Thursday. — *Taryn Luntz*

### Lawyer: Move murder trial

The lawyer for a man accused in the 2006 slaying of Michelle Gardner-Quinn, a University of Vermont senior from Arlington, urged a judge to move the trial.

The lawyer said pretrial publicity — including an editorial in which an FBI agent referred to the suspect as "evil" — would make it impossible to find an unbiased jury.

Gardner-Quinn, 21, disappeared after a chance meeting with Brian Rooney, 37, on a downtown Burlington, Vt., street, when he lent her his cell phone to use after her phone ran out of charge. Six days later, she was found dead at Huntington Gorge in Richmond, Vt. Rooney is accused of aggravated murder. — *AP*

### Man found guilty of murder

Khiry Montay Moore, 17, of Capitol Heights, was found guilty late Thursday of first-degree murder in last year's shooting death of former high school football star Maurice Thomas Powell, 19. Moore faces life in prison for shooting Powell as he and two friends made their way home from a Metro stop on March 11, 2007. — *Freeman Klopott*

### Montgomery fugitive arrested

A Woodbridge man wanted by Montgomery County police for a charge of second-degree attempted murder and four other charges was arrested Tuesday in Prince William County and could face extradition to Maryland. Detectives from Prince William County's gang unit were investigating an unrelated incident when they determined Milton Javier Calderon-Melendez was wanted and charged him with being a fugitive from justice. — *Dan Genz*

## WHAT'S MAKING NEWS

# Mixed martial arts could be regulated under bill

Competition in mixed martial arts in Maryland would be regulated and taxed under a bill that passed the state Senate Friday in a 42-to-5 vote.

The sport, a combination of kicking, grappling and striking, is unregulated and technically illegal as a

paid spectator sport.

The legislation would put it under the control of the State Athletic Commission, which also oversees boxing and kickboxing.

Physicians would check contestants and the commission would establish rules for the sport.

The Senate rejected efforts by Sen. James Brochin, D-Baltimore County, to ban "ultimate fighting" from the definition of mixed martial arts. Brochin and other senators said that in "ultimate fighting" opponents attempted to beat each other unconscious.

## TODAY'S TOP STORY » EXAMINER EXCLUSIVE

# Officials let deadlines lapse in 987 child-abuse cases

## Calls to agency quadrupled following Southeast incident

By Bill Myers  
Examiner Staff Writer

Child-welfare bureaucrats have allowed the deadlines to lapse in nearly 1,000 abuse and neglect cases, potentially leaving the children vulnerable to mistreatment and threatening to drag the city into court receivership, *The Examiner* has learned.

"The calls are coming in very rapidly," Child and Family Services Agency Director Sharlynn E. Bobo told *The Examiner*. "The issue is you can't control it. You have to take every call."

Under a consent decree stemming from a class-action suit over the collapse of its child protection agencies, the District promised to resolve abuse and neglect complaints with-

### Adding up

D.C.'s backlog of abuse and neglect cases

- » July 2004: 685 overdue cases
- » February 2008: 404 overdue cases
- » March 2008: 987 overdue cases

in 30 days.

It has never met the deadline. But since the badly decomposed bodies of four girls were found in a squatter's row house in Southeast earlier this year, the already-hobbled Child and Family Services Agency has been flooded with complaints. Calls to the hotline have spiked by more than 400 percent.

"The agency has absolutely never, ever experienced something like this," Bobo said. "There's nothing to compare it to."

The backlog of past-due cases is

at its highest point since July 2004, when there were nearly 700 overdue investigations, records show.

Bobo's team is due back in federal court April 1 to explain the District's reform efforts. If the court is unsatisfied with their explanation, D.C. could lose control of yet another critical agency.

Officials have been rattled by the discovery that welfare bureaucrats ignored signs that Banita Jacks, a homeless woman, was a threat to her children. Jacks is now charged with killing her girls.

There are now more than 1,700 open investigations, counting those filed more than 30 days ago.

After the scandal broke, Mayor Adrian Fenty promised to fix the child welfare system. He summarily fired six officials whom he accused of mishandling the Jacks case. But some are worried that the mayor and the city are only reacting to events, not trying to shape them.

"It demoralized the agency," said District Council Member Phil Men-

**“The calls are coming in very rapidly. The issue is you can't control it. You have to take every call.”** — Sharlynn E. Bobo, Child and Family Services Agency director

derson, D-at large, of Fenty's handling of the Jacks crisis.

Judith Sandalow, executive director of The Children's Law Center, a nonprofit advocacy group, said she was worried that the city's reform efforts are misplaced.

"We've been asking the mayor and the council to focus on services that will prevent children from having to be put in foster care," she said. "We have an ongoing concern about the influx of calls."

*Got a tip on the child welfare system? Call Bill Myers at 202-459-4956 or e-mail [bmyers@dcexaminer.com](mailto:bmyers@dcexaminer.com).*

# Kaine and McDonnell fight power-corridor ruling

By William C. Flook  
Examiner Staff Writer

Virginia Attorney General Bob McDonnell and Gov. Tim Kaine have asked a federal appeals court to strike down a U.S. Department of Energy decision that includes the state in a power corridor spanning a large part of the East Coast.

The Thursday filing in the Fourth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals is the latest play in a sovereignty fight that could clarify whether the federal or state government has the power to guide the placement of power lines.

The two officials appealed on the grounds the agency superseded state authority by designating parts of Virginia in October as a priority spot for high-voltage transmission lines.

## Fighting the feds

Key parts of Gov. Tim Kaine's and Attorney General Bob McDonnell's argument against including Virginia in a federal power corridor:

- » The move could lead to "federal pre-emption" of a historically state-based decision.
- » The state process best includes all stakeholders, including property owners and governments.
- » The U.S. Department of Energy decision offered no substantial justification for why authority should be transferred to the federal government.



McDonnell



Kaine

The Department of Energy earlier this month refused the commonwealth's request to reconsider the original decision, calling the plea "without merit."

The National Interest Electric Transmission Corridor also spans

parts of Maryland and the District, as well as New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Ohio and West Virginia.

It cuts through much of Northern Virginia and the Shenandoah Valley.

"Our goal is and always has been to ensure a reliable, affordable, environmentally sustainable supply of energy," Kaine said. "We also know that these important decisions about where to locate power lines are best handled at the state level."

The states were identified in a 2006 Energy Department study as "areas of significant electricity congestion and constraint."

The October decision allows a utility company seeking to build a new line in the corridor to appeal to federal regulators if it is turned down by a state government.

Energy Department spokeswoman Megan Barnett said the process involved "dozens of hours of public meetings across the country" and a public comment period.

The specifics of the commonwealth's appeal will be laid out in the coming weeks, according to the attorney general's office.

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